

C. Listing of the Claims

A complete set of the existing claims are set forth below, with the amended claims showing deletions (strikethrough) and insertions (underline).

Sub BL 1. (Currently Amended) A method of processing at least two associated noncontiguous target information regions wherein ~~at least one information separates the two target regions within an electronic document, the method comprising the steps of:~~

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- a) ~~accepting input to select the~~ a continuous target information region ~~regions and the information separating region;~~
 - b) ~~accepting input to deselect~~ at least one portion of the continuous target information separating region to form the at least two associated noncontiguous target information regions; and
 - e) ~~accepting input to process the~~ at least two associated noncontiguous target information regions.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the continuous target information region comprises text ~~regions comprise text, and at least two target information regions are separated by at least one information separating region.~~

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein accepting input to select the continuous target information region comprises storing locations of a first begin select delimiter located left of the continuous target information and a first end select delimiter located right of the continuous target information region. step (a) comprises the step of storing a first begin select delimiter to the left of a first region and a first end select delimiter to the right of a second target information region in an electronic file.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein accepting input to deselect at least one portion of the continuous target information region comprises storing locations of a second end select delimiter that is located between the first begin select delimiter and first end select delimiter and a second begin select delimiter that is between the second and first end select delimiters. ~~step (b) comprises the step of accepting input to deselect the information separating region by storing a second end select delimiter to the right of the first target information region, said second end select delimiter corresponding with the first begin select delimiter, and storing a second begin select delimiter to the left of the second target information region, said second begin select delimiter corresponding with the first end select delimiter.~~

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising accepting input for creating additional associated noncontiguous target information regions. ~~step (d) accepting further input to change a number of the target information regions.~~

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising ~~step (d)~~ accepting further input to change ~~the content of the~~ the at least two associated noncontiguous target information regions.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the electronic document comprises graphical information.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the continuous target information region and the at least one portion of the continuous target

information ~~separating region that is deselected~~ are each designated ~~defined~~ by a rectangle~~box~~, each ~~box~~rectangle having two delimiters ~~tags~~ located at opposite corners.

9. (Currently Amended) A system for processing at least two associated noncontiguous target information regions within an electronic document, comprising:

an input interface to accept input to select ~~the~~ a continuous target information ~~region~~regions and input to ~~deselect~~ at least one portion of the continuous target information region to form the at least two associated noncontiguous target information regions; and

a processor unit connected to the input interface, the processor unit processing the at least two associated noncontiguous target information regions.

10. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 9, wherein the continuous target information ~~region comprises~~regions comprise ~~noncontiguous~~ textual information.

11. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~9~~10, wherein the processor unit stores a begin tag and an end tag for each of the at least two associated noncontiguous target information regions.

12. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~9~~11, further comprising an output interface to transmit a display that shows the at least two associated noncontiguous target information regions in a different manner than the at least one deselected portion of the continuous target information region. ~~of a region of text selected as one of the~~

~~target information regions in a different manner than a region of text selected as one of the information separating regions.~~

13. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 9, wherein the input interface unit accepts input from at least one of a keyboard, a speech to text converter, a mouse, a pressure pad and a trackball device.

14. (Original) The system of claim 9, wherein the input interface receives input for a positional indicator and the processor unit selects information when the positional indicator is moved in a first direction and deselects information when the positional indicator is moved in a second direction.

15. (Original) The system of claim 9, wherein the electronic document comprises graphical information.

16. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium having computer readable program code embodied therein for selecting at least two associated noncontiguous information regions of an electronic document that are selectively divided into at least two target information regions and separated by at least one information separating region regions, the computer readable program code in the computer usable medium comprising:

computer readable program code for causing a computer to accept input that selects a continuous ~~for selecting the target information region~~ regions of the electronic document;

computer readable program code for causing a computer to accept further input that selects to deselect the at least one information separating regions region, wherein the at least one of the information separating regions is located within the continuous target information region to form the at least two associated noncontiguous target information regions; and

computer readable program code for causing a computer to process the at least two associated noncontiguous target information regions.

17. (Currently Amended) A system for processing noncontiguous target information within an electronic document, the system comprising:

input means to accept input for selecting a continuous target information region and input for selecting at least one deselecting information separating region that divides the continuous target information region into at least two associated noncontiguous target information regions; and

processor means for processing the at least two associated noncontiguous target information regions, said processor means operatively connected to the input means.

18. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 17, wherein the continuousnoncontiguous target information region contains is-textual information.

19. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 17-18, wherein the processor means stores a begin tag and an end tag for each of the associated noncontiguous target information regions.

20. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 17-19, wherein further comprising display means for displaying the at least two associated noncontiguous target

information regions in a different manner than the at least one information separating region. a region of text selected as one of the target information regions in a different manner than a region of text selected as one of the information separating regions, said display means being operatively connected to the processor means.